WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 1941.

G. A. O. Building Is Approved by **Planning Group**

Structure North of **Old Pension Office** To Cost \$9,850,000

Tentative plans for a new General Accounting Office Building, to be situated on the block north of the old Pension Office, now occupied by G. A. O., at a cost of \$9,850,000, were approved today by the National Cap-

ital Park and Planning Commission. Thomas S. Settle, commission secretary, said plans and preliminary sketches presented by Louis Simon. chief architect of Public Buildings Administration, showed a building very similar to the new Interior Department Building - seven stories with wings and penthouse setback on the roof.

The 1942 budget asks Congress to appropriate \$5,000,000 to continue purchase of the site and commence construction

Land already is being acquired through condemnation and plans drawn up under a \$2,000,000 appropriation this year.

Mr. Settle said that the Planning Commission anticipates that when the new G. A. O. quarters are completed the old Pension Office will be demolished and in its place erected a new building for the United States District Court for the District of Co-

Disagreement on Site.

However, there is disagreement between the Federal judges on the one side and the Bar Association and Planning Commission on the other as to the desirability of this site for a new District Court. The judges desire that the new court be placed together with the United States Courts of Appeals for the District, Customs and Patent

Appeals and Claims and the United States Board of Tax Appeals in buildings flanking the proposed memorial park to the late Chief Justice Holmes immediately east of the Supreme Court. The justices have pointed out that it is folly to assume the Government would agree to tear down the

old Pension Office Building now when office space is so badly needed it has been reported, that if the ing itself in the buildings proposed Southwestern Washington. for Capitol Hill it may be years before any new building is realized. Independence Avenue Widening.

nue S.W. to 80 feet from Seventh to Fourteenth streets and to continue it all the way to the Potomac River in the same manner as Constitution avenue. The avenue already has been widened westward as far as Seventh street S.W. Plans for the extension of the avenue west of Fourteenth street were described as only preliminary. Henry Hanrahan, Arlington Coun-

ty manager; C. L. Kinnear, Arlington County engineer, and Frank L. Deter, executive officer of the Arlington Planning Commission, today submitted plans to the commission for a new connection between Ridge road and Lee boulevard where they intersect. Present plans call for Arlington Ridge road to underpass the boulevard where the latter overpasses the Pennsylvania Railroad, thereby doing away with the present grade crossing. A loop, however, must be provided between the two highways.

Plans also were presented by the Arlington officials to provide against traffic congestion in the vicinity of the Government's new general purpose office building to be built at Columbia pike and Arlington Ridge

Traffic Control System. A model traffic control system for

Washington was discussed at yesterday's meetings of the commission with the District Commissioners.

Commissioner J. C. Nichols of the planning body emphasized that the National Capital owes a duty to the country as a whole, as well as to its own residents, to clear the streets of congestion and provide ample parking facilities for visitors as well as residents.

A plan by Traffic Director William A. Van Duzer to level off the peak of Washington's 9 a.m. rush period

was discussed at the session. Would Move Schools Back.

recommend that Government offices open at 15-minute intervals from opening time from 9 to 9:30 a.m.

Under the present set-up the peak of the traffic flow is reached between 8:30 and 8:45 while 52 per cent of the city's 150,000 Federal workers and all of the 110,000 school children are trying to reach their destinations by 9 o'clock.

Commissioner Nichols agreed that changes must be made in the public interest. Downtown Washington he said, passed the traffic and parking "saturation point" some time ago. He added that individual sacrifices will have to be made on the part of the public if the present congestion is to be relieved and plans made for an increasing burden due to the city's growth.

Drastic Parking Bans.

Mr. Nichols said that drastic restriction of on-street parking would stimulate private enterprise to provide off-street parking facilities, although care must be taken to prevent a concentration of these facilities in any one area.

The Commissioner said the meet ing yesterday was to "get the ball rolling" toward a solution of traffic problems rather than to make specific recommendations. These recommendations will be made after completion of a joint parking survey by the District and the Public Roads Administration, the first of its kind in the United States, and the report being prepared by Mr. Van Duzer.

Questions under consideration include a proposal to finance parking lots from parking meter and gasoline tax receipts and amendments to the zoning regulations to require new buildings to provide off-street



TRAILER BRINGS THEM TROUBLE-Sergeant Roy R. Wood (left) of overcrowded Fort Myer, Va., is shown standing in door of his trailer-home which he parked on the property of A. H. Gast (right) on Fort Myer drive, Arlington, Va., because there was no room for the soldier on the post. As owner of the property, Gast was found guilty by a police judge of violating a county ordinance which forbids parking in a trailer in the county more than 60 days. Sentence has been postponed to January 23.

—Star Staff Photo.

1,500 to Face Tests;

Number of Selectees

of Washington's February quota.

ical examiner for the District

to conflict with mobilization of Na-

tional Guard units of the 29th Divi-

sion, tentatively set for February 3

40 colored on February 20: 70 white

Quotas by Boards.

Board No. 1, quota 13, February

white: Board No. 2, quota 10

February 19, 1 colored, and February

24, 9 white; Board No. 3, quota 5,

February 21, 5 white; Board No. 4,

quota 13, February 19, 1 colored,

white; Board No. 6, quota 13,

February 19, 2 colored, and February

24, 11 white; Board No. 7, quota 16,

ruary 24, 13 white: Board No. 8.

February 20, 16 white: Board No. 10.

February 20. 9 white: Board No. 11

quota 21, February 19, 14 colored,

Board No. 13, quota 12, February

19, 6 colored, and February 20, 6

white; Board No. 14, quota 15,

February 21, 10 white, and 5 colored;

Board No. 15, quota 16, February 10,

10 colored, and February 24, 6 white;

Board No. 16, quota 10, February 20,

4 colored, and February 21, 6 white;

Board No. 17, quota 15, February 20,

18, quota 13, February 20, 8 white,

and February 21, 5 colored; Board

No. 19, quota 18, February 21, 2 white

16, February 21, 15 white, and

21, 12 white; Board No. 22, quota 10,

February 19, 3 colored, and February

20, 7 white; Board No. 23, quota 14

February 20, 2 colored, and Feb-

ruary 21, 10 white, and Board No.

25, quota 15, February 21, 2 white,

February's draft call will take

and 13 colored.

white, and 12 colored.

Armory in Baltimore.

Forty-nine colored men will be in-

Examinations Next Week.

From Boards Is Set

U. S. Acquiring Land Physical Examinations For New G.A.O. Office Slated Next Week And to Improve Mall For February Quotas

Condemnation Petition For Southwest Tracts Filed in District Court

The Federal Government, it was learned today, is moving to acquire were preparing for the examination land for the new General Account- of from 1,500 to 2,000 District men ing Office at Fifth and G streets from whose ranks will come Washfor defense purposes. They feel, N.W. and for the improvement of ington's February quota of 353 the Mall and street car connections selectees for Army training. District Court refrains from includ- for the new public buildings in Forty-three men left Washington

Filed in District Court is a peti- Army at Baltimore. Forty were tion for condemnation of land on colored men, comprising the last Independence avenue between Sixth regular component of the January The Commission today approved and Seventh streets S.W., signed by quota. They are expected to be plans to widen Independence ave- Assistant Attorney General Nor- assigned for permanent training at man M. Littell, in charge of the Fort Bragg, N. C., after induction Public Lands Division of the De- and a brief period at Fort George G. partment of Justice; Alexander H. Meade. The other three were white Bell, jr., principal attorney, and his men held over from previous quotas. associate, Henry F. Mooney.

This concerns the north front of Square 462 to the public alley. This ments for rejected Washington property will afford another approach to the new Government ary 27. building in the Independence avenue region at Sixth street. Part of the land to be acquired will be used to improve the Mall, widen Independence avenue and relay the street car tracks there. Chief Justice Alfred A. Wheat is expected shortly to empanel a jury to con-

sider land values in that area. From other Government sources was learned that the Federal Works Administrator John M. Carmody is now making advance purchases in the block bounded by G and H. Fourth and Fifth streets N.W., for the new General Account-

ing Office building. Property that cannot be acquired by private negotiation will be made the subject of a condemnation suit in District Court shortly. Excepted from public purchase in the area in which the new General Accounting Office will be constructed will be St. Mary's Catholic Church and school and the northwest corner of the block, official said.

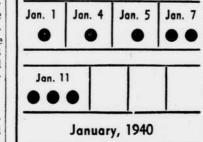
Birth-Control Session Will Hear Census Expert

Dr. Halbert L. Dunn, chief statistician of vital statistics for the Census Bureau, will be among speakers at the annual meeting of the Birth Control Federation of America. January 28, 29 and 30, in New York City. Dr. Dunn will discuss "Significance of the Leveling-off of Our Birth Rate" during a symposium January 28 on "Strengthening Our It was said Mr. Van Duzer will Population for National Defense." E. Johnston Coil, director of the National Economic and Social Plan-7:45 to 9:15 o'clock and that public ning Association, which maintains and private schools change their offices here, also is to be among the symposium participants.

Stop Traffic Deaths

Every blot is a traffic death. Already the toll is greater than in 1940. Keep down the blots on the 1941 calendar.

January, 1941



Jan. 1 Jan 12.

In January, Beware Of: 1. Crossing a street at a point

Jan. 13 Jan. 30

other than a crosswalk. Three persons were killed doing so in January, 1940. 2. Crossing a street at an uncontrolled intersection. This

took one life in January last All four pedestrians killed last January were over 50 years of cycle policeman killed in a collision while pursuing a speeding

Traffic Judge **Rotating Plan** For D. C. Hit

Enforcement Group's Chairman Favors Abolishing System

(Picture on Page A-6.)

Washington had before it today the advice of one of the Nation's outstanding authorities on traffic court procedure to abolish the system of rotating the four Police Court judges in the traffic branch each month.

Arthur T. Vanderbilt of Newark N. J., chairman of the National Committee on Traffic Law Enforcement, urged the step before a luncheon at the Willard Hotel yesterday attended by three of the Police Court judges, civic leaders, and, representing 32,000 District motorists, members of the District Advisory Board and Women's Safety Committee of the American Automobile Association, which sponsored the meeting.

Mr. Vanderbilt, whose committee recently completed an 18-month study of traffic court procedure over the Nation, urged that one or more judges be assigned to the branch permanently, but if this was not feasible, that the terms of service in the branch be fixed at six months rather than one, as at present. The terms could be lengthened by merely a vote of the judges, without legislative action.

Copies to Go to Judges.

Judges John P. McMahon and assignment of a single jurist to the branch, and Judge George D. Neilcopies of Mr. Vanderbilt's address.

Declaring that some judges might be "very unhappy" to be assigned to traffic court permanently, the speaker said this is due to the "prevalent notion that the work is unimportant."

"This notion is absolutely false," he declared. "I say this work is the most important because it is where Selective service officials today the young people of our country get their first taste of justice usually best of the judges.'

Saying that there is oftentimes Service. "tremendous disparity" in sen- To as early today for induction into the the branch

Cites Difference in Views.

"Some judges think going through red light is the arch offense," he Four additional colored men will be continued, "while others think drivsent to Baltimore later. Replaceing 60 miles per hour is the most heinous crime. . . Some think one selectees will be inducted Janucocktail does not make a dangerous driver, while another might think it Brig. Gen. Albert L. Cox. selective was as bad as drinking a whole service executive for the District, case.'

Lawyers and defendants, he pointment among the 25 local draft boards ed out, come to know the idiosyncrasies of each jurist and have their cases postponed accordingly. A test showing the great divergence be-The call is the largest to date, and tween sentences handed out by embraces 224 white and 129 colored selectees. Selective service headfrom 30 days to 11 years on an quarters announced that physical identical criminal case, he said. examinations will be given sometime As long as the judges do rotate

next week, with the date to be set in the traffic assignment, he urged they would have "difficulty" getting soon by Col. A. C. Gray, State medfrequent conferences between them to work out a uniform set of The February consignment of 353 penalties. men will be inducted on four days

"There is a peculiar notion afflictnext month-February 19, 20, 21 and ing both lawyers and laymen," he 24. The dates were chosen so as not said, "who think that a judge presiding in a civil court is more valuable than one presiding in a criminal court. Why should a judge settling ducted February 19; 70 white and civil suits be more important than a justice who is administering the and 40 colored on February 21, and law for the peace and order of the 84 white on February 24. They will community? be inducted at the 5th Regiment Pointing out that there are many

visitors here from other cities, often driving their automobiles, he called on the assignment of a permanent Draft Board quotas and dates on traffic judge to serve as a "model which these men will be inducted, and inspiration to other cities of ceded America's declaration of war the country." 19, 2 colored, and February 24, 11

Compliments Appointive System. He complimented Washington on the "advantage" of having its Police Court judges appointed by the President and confirmed by Congress, which rendered them unresponsive to "local political pressure.

and February 24, 12 white; Board He criticized, however, the "ex-No. 5, quota 12, February 24, 12 tension of diplomatic immunity" in the case of traffic tickets to members of Congress, their constituents February 19, 3 colored, and Feb- living here, the heads of departments, their secretaries, messengers quota 16, February 19, 6 colored, and and others, comprising "about ninetenths" of the city's population.

February 24, 10 white: Board No. 9. Before each guest at the luncheon quota 19, February 19, 3 colored, and was a resolution adopted by the 38th annual meeting of the A. A. A. adquota 17, February 19, 8 colored, and vocating some of the steps outlined by Mr. Vanderbilt. A copy of a report on the A. A. A. Committee on and February 20, 7 white, and Minor Court Systems touching on Board No. 12, quota 16, February 20, the subject also was handed each

Prior to Mr. Vanderbilt's talk the assembly stood for a moment in silent tribute to the late George W. Offut, chairman of the District of Columbia Advisory Board and a member of the National Board of Directors of the A. A. A resolution praising his services was passed. John L. Vandegrift, chairman of 13 white, and 2 colored; Board No. the Advisory Board, presided and introduced Mr. Vanderbilt.

and 16 colored; Board No. 20, quota 36 New Influenza Cases colored; Board No. 21, quota 16, February 20, 4 colored, and February Are Reported in District

Thirty-six additional cases of influenza in the District were report-February 20, 6 colored, and February ed today to the Health Department, 21, 8 white; Board No. 24, quota 12, bringing the total for the year to date to 279. At this time last year,

only 21 cases had been reported. The Health Department also revealed that 32 deaths attributed to the average around \$3.50. pneumonia have been reported so

in Cuba last year, an increase over with 64 for the same period of Jan- Fifteenth street N.W. uary last year.



WELCOME TO WASHINGTON-Visitors for the inauguration will be welcomed and told about District housing facilities at this booth, set up today in the concourse at the Union Station. The booth is conducted by the Housing and Hospitality Committee of the Inaugural Committee. At left, Col. Harrison Brand, jr., executive secretary of the Board of Trade and secretary of the Housing Committee, and Edgar Morris, chairman of the committee, inspect the information booth staff. From left, the girls are Catherine Cooke, Betty Mullineaux, Sally Sherman, Nan Hannum, Nell Raymond, Helen Snyder and Ann Embrey, who is in charge of the booth.—Star Staff Photo.

workers to attend the interdenomi-

national religious services Sunday

dom. The public is invited, of

course, to these services to be con-

ducted by the Rev. John Keating

Cartwright, pastor of the Church

of the Immaculate Conception:

Washington Hebrew Congregation;

Dr. Seth R. Brooks, pastor of the

Universalist Memorial Church, and

Governors' Ball Tornorrow.

Hotel tomorrow beginning at 7

o'clock. Secretary of Agriculture

Senator Lee of Oklahoma is to be

toastmaster. Ten Governors and

three Senators have already indi-

cated they will attend, it was said.

branches will be closed Inauguration

Day, it was announced today by Miss

Postmaster Vincent C. Burke said

all classified stations and branches

of the City Post Office will be closed

from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday,

and that the Navy. Treasury, F

street and G street stations would

be closed all day. The main office

at North Capitol street and Massa-

chusetts avenue will be open

throughout the day. Postmen will

make only one delivery trip, and

to Edward D. Shaw, secretary of the

Merchants and Manufacturers' As-

sociation. Many grocery and other

retail stores are to close during the

parade only, while coal and fuel oil

that necessary deliveries may be

Davies Sees Inaugural

As Democratic Symbol

The presidential inauguration cere-

monies are intended "to proclaim

that this country, in the face of this

terrific ideological conflict and world

war, not only clings to the demo-

told the Cosmopolitan Club at a

"By will of the American people,"

a repository of religious, moral and

spiritual conviction, and can and

will sustain those principles of hon-

sary to create and maintain a de-

cent world in which to live."

in residential sections only.

made, he added

yesterday

Clara W. Herbert, librarian.

The Public Library and all its

Wickard is scheduled to speak and

inauguration.

Elaborate Precautions Mapped Adverse Zone Ruling As Part of Inaugural Plans

1,500 Policemen and Firemen Will Have Special Assignments Monday

More than 1,500 policemen, fire- | mittee chairman, urged members of men and plainclothes detectives are the committee and subcommittee to be given special assignments cov-Walter J. Casey, who have opposed ering Inauguration Day activities, at 2:30 p.m. in the Court of Free-Maj. Ernest W. Brown, superintendent of police, said today.

And these are, of course, in addition to military guards and the several thousand soldiers, sailors, marines. Coast Guardsmen, cadets of West Point and midshipmen of Annapolis, who will swing down Pennsylvania avenue in the inaugural parade. Announcement of an elaborate

precautionary program was made by Maj. Brown late yesterday following a conference late yesterday with officials of the Park Police, Termiand traffic courts should have the nal Police, the Fire Department, White House Police and the Secret

To assure protection, not only for tences meted out by the judges, the President but for the crowd of Mr. Vanderbilt pointed out that several hundred thousand persons lengthening of terms would largely expected in Washington during the obviate the possibility of defendants inaugural period, Maj. Brown said having their cases postponed until a that all known criminals and suspimore lenient judge was assigned to clous persons will be "taken out of circulation." Since the local police force has been augmented by 80 plainclothes detectives and 300 uniformed men from other cities outof-town pickpockets and others who might cause trouble probably will be picked up and held as vagrants or "for investigation."

Credentials to Be Requested. Between now and Monday detailed inspections will be made of all buildings, stands and grounds adjacent to President will participate. Only persons presenting proper credentials can enter any of the nearby structures-and this applies to members of Congress, as well as those seekjudges resulted in sentences varying ing window seats overlooking the parade route. Speaker Rayburn told House members vesterday that unless legislators have official cards

> Few of the special arrangements made by the Secret Service have been made public, but it will be remembered that at the last inauguration skilled marksmen were stationed on buildings commanding a view of all scenes of major activity Such care to safeguard the President of the United States has not been approached except for the second inauguration of Woodrow Wilson and the first inauguration of Abraham Lincoln.

Lincoln Changed Trains.

Wilson was sworn in, one will recall, amid the tension that preone month later. Lincoln changed trains en route to Washington to forestall possible attack by Southern sympathizers, who were reportedly planning to attempt to kidnap or even assassinate the Presidentelect as his party passed through Baltimore.

And during Lincoln's inaugural parade sharpshooters were assigned to every Pennsylvania avenue rooftop, with orders to shoot down on sight any person making a suspicious move toward the President.

Parade Route to Be Barred. Maj. Brown said the route the

President will use in going to and from the Capitol will be barred to vehicles after 10:30 a.m., except for automobiles with special passes, ambulances and the like. Pedestrians will be allowed to

cross the parade route, providing they do not interfere with the ession, everywhere except between Madison and Jackson places, it was said. To provide the public with tele-

phone service that might be denied because of restrictions on entering buildings along the parade route the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co. announced telephone trailers, each equipped with five pooths and an attendant, will be placed at Lafayette Square just north of the Court of Freedom, in the park north of the Commerce Building, behind the stands between Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets, on the south side of Pennsylvania avenue at Ninth street and on the grounds east of the Capitol

Window Space. Sale of window space in privatelyowned buildings overlooking the Pennsylvania avenue parade course has been fairly brisk despite inclement weather. Prices run as high as \$7.70 for choice seats, with

The Inaugural Committee total of 7,177 men from the 3d Corps far this month. For the first two ported that about \$40,000 worth of Area, of which 1,070 will come from weeks of January last year, 24 seats in its special stands were still Maryland, 843 from Virginia and pneumonia deaths were reported.

Six new cases of pneumonia were brackets. Sales up to this morning reported today, bringing the total amounted to about \$55,000, it was Tobacco was grown on 5,026 farms for the year to date to 114, compared said. The ticket office is at 727

Joseph E. Davies, Inaugural Com-

Sets Back Plans for Crystal City Project

Pleas for Commercial Area, 130-Foot Height Are Rejected

proposed \$15,000,000 Crystal City was found to have declined from hotel, apartment, theater and business project at Connecticut and placed on District property by the Florida avenues have received a assessor to 40.8 per cent. Again, it Rabbi Norman Gerstenfeld of the severe setback in rejection by the was suggested at the District Build-Zoning Commission of a petition to permit a height of 130 feet and developments was primarily the commercial zoning along Connecti- cause of this minor change. cut avenue.

Dr. Albert J. McCartney, pastor of the Covenant - First Presbyterian The decision of the commission obtained by a poll of its members. Indications were today that there was reported last night by officials would be no restrictions on music of the commission. Roy S. Thurbroadcast by networks from the In- man, promoter of the huge project, augural Gala Sunday evening at had voiced belief there was little Constitution Hall or from the parade hope for the development unless the Monday afternoon. The broadcast- petition was approved by the com-

ing companies have been informed mission. by leaders of bands that will play However, the Zoning Commission during the events that the American has scheduled for consideration at would be excluded from the ac-Society of Composers, Authors and a public hearing February 6 a sug- counting and only one-half of the Publishers has granted a blanket gestion by John Nolen of the Na- park area would be counted under waiver for broadcasting of A. S. C. tional Capital Park and Planning the terms of the plan as presented A. P. music in connection with the Commission for a new-zoning classi- by Senator Overton in 1939. He The National Democratic League of the District has announced sponnesses or theaters to be placed in the National Capital character of sorship of a Governors' inaugural residential zones. banquet and ball at the Lafavette

promoters of the Crystal City plan area of the District, the total acremight apply to the Board of Zoning | age owned by the United States, the Adjustment for approval of its proj- increase in this figure since 1939 ect, which, it was thought, might and the amount of Federally-owned be approved if some changes were property here which is used exclumade, including elimination of the sively by the District. proposed commercial zoning along Connecticut avenue.

Recently the Zoning Commission withheld final decision on the requested zoning change, suggesting that the promoters of the project confer with the Zoning Advisory Council to determine if changes could be made in plans which might meet with commission approval Thereafter Mr. Thurman insisted on early action by the commission.

parcel post delivery will be made 25,000 U. S. Employes Most of the downtown retail stores Added Here in 11 Months will close all day Monday, according More than 25,000 workers were

added to the rolls here and approximately 98,000 in the rest of the country during the first 11 months firms will operate until 10 a.m. so of 1940, the monthly personnel re- \$8,000,000, or about 20 per cent of port of the Civil Service Commis-

sion showed today As of November 30, the commission said, 152,605 persons were employed in the executive agencies here and 958,925 in the field, for an aggregate of 1,111.530.

cratic faith of the fathers, but can of a million dollars to \$26,244.698. and will make democracy effective while an advance of more than and strong," Chairman Joseph E. \$1,659,000 over the October figure Davies of the Inaugural Committee sent the field roll to \$142,144,104. The commission said that locally, luncheon in the Carlton Hotel War, Navy, Justice, Commerce and Social Security had the largest arsenal of military might, but also the greatest growth in the field.

Unhurt in 60-Foot Fall

orable conduct among nations as Falling 60 feet from a cliff in well as men, which rules are neces- South Shields, England, 13-year-old George Wetherall escaped with a

Avenue-Side Workers to Lose Windows as Parade Passes

Hundreds of Government employes who toil near a Pennsylvania avenue window every working day will be unable to view the inaugural parade Monday from that vantage point.

The Justice, Post Office and Commerce Departments and the Farm Credit Administration have arranged to take care of their parade-overlook space on a special pass basis, with workers in all quarters getting the same consideration. Since there are many more employes than there are window places, few of those in Pennsylvania avenueside offices can hope to see the parade from their regular win-

In the Commerce Department, for example, only about 200 nasses are to be issued through the chief clerk of the Patent Office, and the department has upward of 5,000 workers. Only employes of the Justice Department having special passes can enter the building Monday, and they cannot be accompanied by members of their

The Post Office Department is arranging its window space on a pass procedure, too, but holders of passes can bring members of the family. At the Treasury Department,

where windows on both Pennsylvania avenue and Fifteenth street provide an excellent view of the parade route, only about 200 seats were available to persons with special permits. A small sum was charged to cover cost of renting and installing the seats, it was said, and "there go around-even for the highranking department officials."

New Data Asked On U. S.-Owned Land in District

Overton Asks Figures Before Reintroducing Federal Share Bill

Chairman Overton of the Senate District Appropriations Subcommittee today called on Assessor Edward A Dent to supply the latest data showing the percentage of the District's landed area which is owned by the United States, in furtherance of his plan for a more equitable Federal payment toward National Capital expenses.

His action came on the heels of

a report by the District Commis sioners, laid yesterday before the Senate, which showed the amount of tax-exempt property of all kinds for the current fiscal year as compared with the fiscal year 1939. This report, which was prepared in response to a Senate resolution, revealed that United States holdings had increased by \$5.075.926 since the 1939 fiscal year, according to valuations placed on such properties by

the District assessor. Percentage Down Slightly.

The percentage of Federal holdings to the total valuation placed on all properties within the District, whether taxable or tax exempt, was found to be 31.9 per cent for this year, as compared with 32.7 per cent for the fiscal year 1939. One explanation for this slight decline on the valuation percentage basis, which is not involved in the Overton formula, was that during the past year there has been a very considerable amount of private property improve-

Between the two periods the total Plans for the development of the amount of tax-exempt property 41 per cent of the total valuation ing that the increase in private

To Reintroduce Measure. Senator Overton plans to reintroduce his bill to base the Federal

payment towards National Capital costs generally on the percentage the acreage of the Federal holdings bears to the total landed area of the District. Federally-titled land which is used for municipal nurposes, such as alleys and streets, fication for "community unit" de- calculated that the District park velopments, which would give some areas were about twice what they new leeway to large-scale projects, would be normally for a city of but which would not permit busi- this size, excluding the influence of

Washington. It had been anticipated that if the Senator Overton, in a letter to commission adopted this plan as an Assessor Dent, asked for a report amendment to the zoning code, the of latest details on the total landed

No Fight Last Year.

There was no fight made over the Federal payment last year congressional action over the Dirfiscal year. The issue may be roproposed 1942 District budget since Senator Overton plans to renew his formula for an established system of determining the size of the Federal payment and since Chairman Mahon of the House District Appropriations Subcommittee has suggested that perhaps the proposed renewal of this year's \$6,000,000 payment may be found to be too

The Overton formula, if it had been applied to the budget for the fiscal year 1940, would have called for a Federal payment of about the general fund budget appropriations (not counting charges against the highway or water funds).

Study Now Being Made.

The report submitted to the Senate yesterday by the Commission-Reflecting continued expansion of ers, which was in keeping with a defense activities, the report said, resolution sponsored by former Senthat 3,126 employes were added lo- ator King of Utah, former chairman cally in November and 22,233 outside of the Senate District Committee, of Washington. The local monthly applies to the Federal payment pay roll jumped nearly a quarter question in an entirely different

The report includes a listing of all tax-exempt property in the District Both the Commissioners and Congress had received protests from civic groups about the amount of tax-exempt property. In fact, the gains here, and War, Navy, Agri- city heads some months ago or-Mr. Davies declared, "the United culture, Post Office, Interior, Pana- dered an investigation of each case States will become not only an ma Canal and Treastry experienced of privately owned tax exemption. The study now is being made by a group of municipal officials.

The Commissioners' report revealed that the total valuation of all property in the District, whether tax-exempt or not, was \$2.091.534. 784, as of the current fiscal year. Taxable property was valued at \$1,237,937,085, or 59.2 per cent of the grand total; tax-exempt United States holdings at \$668,071,457, or 31.9 per cent of the total; District government - owned tax - exempt property at \$73,732,063, or 3.5 per cent of the total valuation, and privately-owned tax-exempt proper-

ty at \$111.794.179, or 5.4 per cent In comparison, the figures for the 1939 fiscal year were: Total valuation placed on all properties within the District. \$2.025.010.690; taxable real estate, \$1,193,499,086, or 58.9 per cent of the total; United States properties, \$662,995,513, or 32.7 per cent of the total: District of Columbia properties, \$64,009.069, or 3.2 per cent of the total, and privatelyowned tax-exempt properties, \$104 .-

507,022, or 5.2 per cent of the total.

W.-L. High Accredited

Graduates of Washington-Lee High School, Arlington, Va., this year will have Nation-wide recognition for college and university entrance, it was announced today, The school has been accredited the Virginia department of public were not nearly enough seats to instruction and by the Southern Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges.